

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMAKO 04422 061901Z

23 45

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 CPR-01 SSC-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 ACDA-07 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 /077 W

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P 061553Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5255

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, US, ML

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

1. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO COLONEL MOUSSA TRAORE, PRESIDENT OF MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION (MCNL) AND CHIEF OF STATE OF MALI, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 3. PRESENT WITH TRAORE WERE LT. COL. YOUSSEOUF TRAORE, MEMBER MCNL; LT. COL. FILIFING SISSOKO, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MCNL; AND COL. CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ON OUR SIDE WERE POLITICAL OFFICER RAWSON, AID CDO LEVIN, AND PAO GILBERT (DCM DAWKINS WAS UP-COUNTRY ACCOMPANYING COUNTRY OFFICER ILLION ON VISIT TO VARIOUS AID PROJECTS).

2. PRESIDENT TRAORE'S RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS WAS WARM IN TONE. HE SPOKE OF MALIAN PEOPLE'S ESTEEM AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE AND RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR HARD WORK THAT HAD RESULTED IN EXCEPTIONAL PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE UNITED STATES ENJOYED THROUGHOUT WORLD. HE THANKED PRIVATE AMERICANS AND USG FOR GENEROUS AND EFFECTIVE AID DURING DROUGHT, EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT USG'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN SIGNIFICANT WAY IN MALI'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND REFERRED TO LANDSAT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BAMAKO AND WASHINTON AND NUMEROUS RECENT AID AGREEMENTS AS EVIDENCE OF TWO COUNTRIES' INTEREST IN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

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PAGE 02 BAMAKO 04422 061901Z

3. ONLY INDIRECT REFERENCES TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US WERE: A) PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION CONTINUED EVEN THOUGH EACH COUNTRY HAD AND DEFENDED ITS POSITIONS OF PRINCIPLE IN APPROACH TO SETTLEMENT OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, AND B) HIS REFERENCE TO LARGE AND DECISIVE ROLE USG MUST PLAY IN QUESTIONS OF DISARMAMENT, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, AND IMPROVEMENT OF LOT OF QTE THE OPPRESSED, WEAK, AND EXPLOITED. END QTE. HE CONCLUDED WITH ASSURANCE OF UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF MCNL AND MALI GOVERNMENT FOR AMBASSADOR'S MISSION AND MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP TO PRESIDENT FORD AND AMERICAN PEOPLE.

4. ATMOSPHERE DURING CONVERSATION FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OF REMARKS WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL. PRESIDENT MADE MORE STATEMENTS OF GOOD WILL AND DESIRE TO COOPERATE AND WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF FORTHCOMING AID PROJECTS IN HIS NATIVE REGION OF KAYES. SOLE SUBSTANTIVE POINT WAS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO COMMENTED THAT MALI HAD BEEN NEGLECTED BY USG IN PAST (APPARENTLY REFERENCE TO 1968-1973 PERIOD BEFORE DROUGHT AID), BUT HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT WAS NO LONGER THE CASE. AMBASSADOR DECLINED TO DISCUSS WHAT HAD GONE BEFORE BUT MADE POINT OF STRESSING INTEREST OF BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES IN DEVELOPMENT OF SAHEL AND SPECIFICALLY OF MALI.

5. DURING CEREMONY, PRESIDENT TRAORE AND COLLEAGUES APPLAUSED AT END OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. ASSUMING ACTION TO BE SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL MALIAN CUSTOM, WE FOLLOWED SUIT AFTER PRESIDENT TRAORE'S RESPONSE. LATER, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL MOUSSA LEO KEITA TOLD US THAT WAS FIRST TIME HE HAD EVER SEEN PRESIDENT APPLAUD IN SUCH SITUATION. KEITA, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, WAS CLEARLY DELIGHTED AT ENTIRE PROCEEDING.

6. SPEECHES WERE BROADCAST OVER RADIO MALI DECEMBER 3 AND TEXTS WERE PRINTED DECEMBER 6 IN GOVERNMENT (AND ONLY) NEWSPAPER QTE L'ESSOR, END QTE TOGETHER WITH FRONT-PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS OF AMBASSADOR AND PRESIDENT DELIVERING REMARKS. (PREDICTABLY, ARTICLE ON SOVIET AID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BAMAKO 04422 061901Z

ALSO BEGAN ON FRONT PAGE, BUT PHOTOGRAPH AT LEAST WAS SMALLER.)

7. TEXTS IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.
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